



Metropolitan Council

Overview of Transit, Transportation, and
Metropolitan Planning Organization roles



October 25, 2023



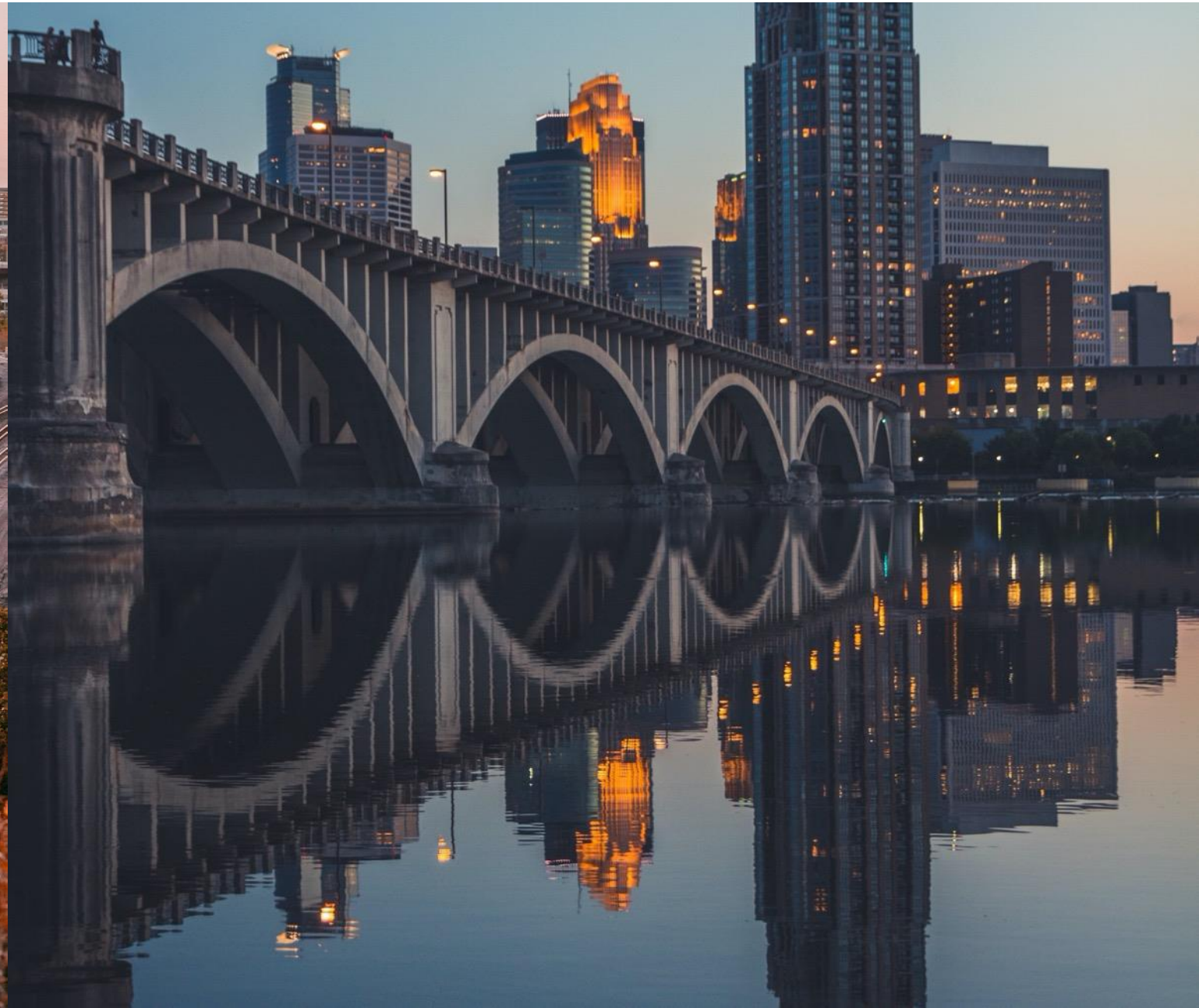
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Metropolitan Council

Our impact

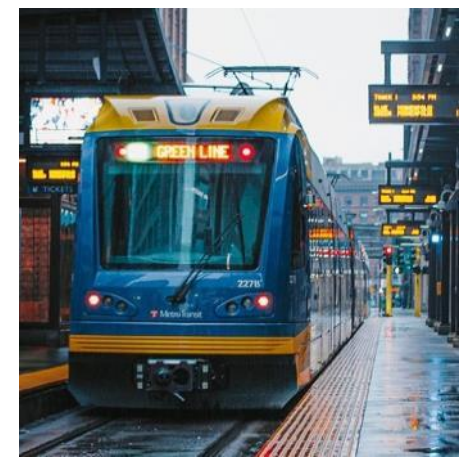
Creating the foundation for a thriving region



No one community can do it alone

Every single person and community makes up the fabric and essence of this region.

- **3,189,756 people** in 7 counties
- **3,120,266 people** in 141 cities
- **69,447 people** in 40 townships
- **430 residents** in Fort Snelling Unorganized Territory
- Native people from 11 federally recognized Minnesota tribes and many other tribal communities
- Growing diversity representing wide-ranging racial identities and ethnicities, with about 300 languages spoken at home



Agency structure and domains



Partnering on a shared vision

Making a strong system possible through planning, coordination, and operations



Long-range planning

Supporting cities and townships for the prosperity of the region



Environmental protection

Protecting public waterways and parklands to sustain our environment



Transportation services

Connecting people to places and keeping the economy moving

Metropolitan Council

Community Development

Environmental Services

Transportation

Housing, Development, and Contamination Clean Up Grants
MN 473.25-255

Regional Land Use Planning
MN 473.145, 473.851-867

Housing Services
MN 473.195

Regional Parks and Open Space planning and funding: MN 473.301-351

Wastewater
MN 473.511

Surface Water Quality
MN 473.157

Water Supply Planning
MN 473.1565

Regional Transportation Planning
MN 473.146

Transitway Development
MN 473.399

Transit Services
MN 473.385

Metro Transit



Metro Transit Overview



A division of the Metropolitan Council

- Operates bus, light rail, and commuter rail
- Serves over 70 communities
- Ridership at about 55% of pre-COVID ridership, providing an average of ~120-140K rides per weekday
- Current service about 75% of 2019 service levels

Metro Transit Overview - continued



- More than 2,700 employees
- 2023 operating budget: \$530.3M
- 2023-2028 capital program: \$6.75B
- Current initiatives include (examples)
 - Safety & Security Action Plan
 - Network Now
 - Speed & Reliability Program
 - Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan
 - Ongoing workforce recruitment and development
 - Metro Transit Forward – creating a strategic vision to guide Metro Transit operations
- Ridership and crime data available online:
www.metrotransit.org/performance

METRO Projects for Metro Transit



METRO Projects Division



A new division of the Met Council

- Lead development of large new transitway projects
- Tasks include project development, engineering, construction
- Currently includes two LRT, two Dedicated BRT, and Arterial BRT
- Staffing includes partner agencies (MnDOT and County) and Consultants

METRO Projects

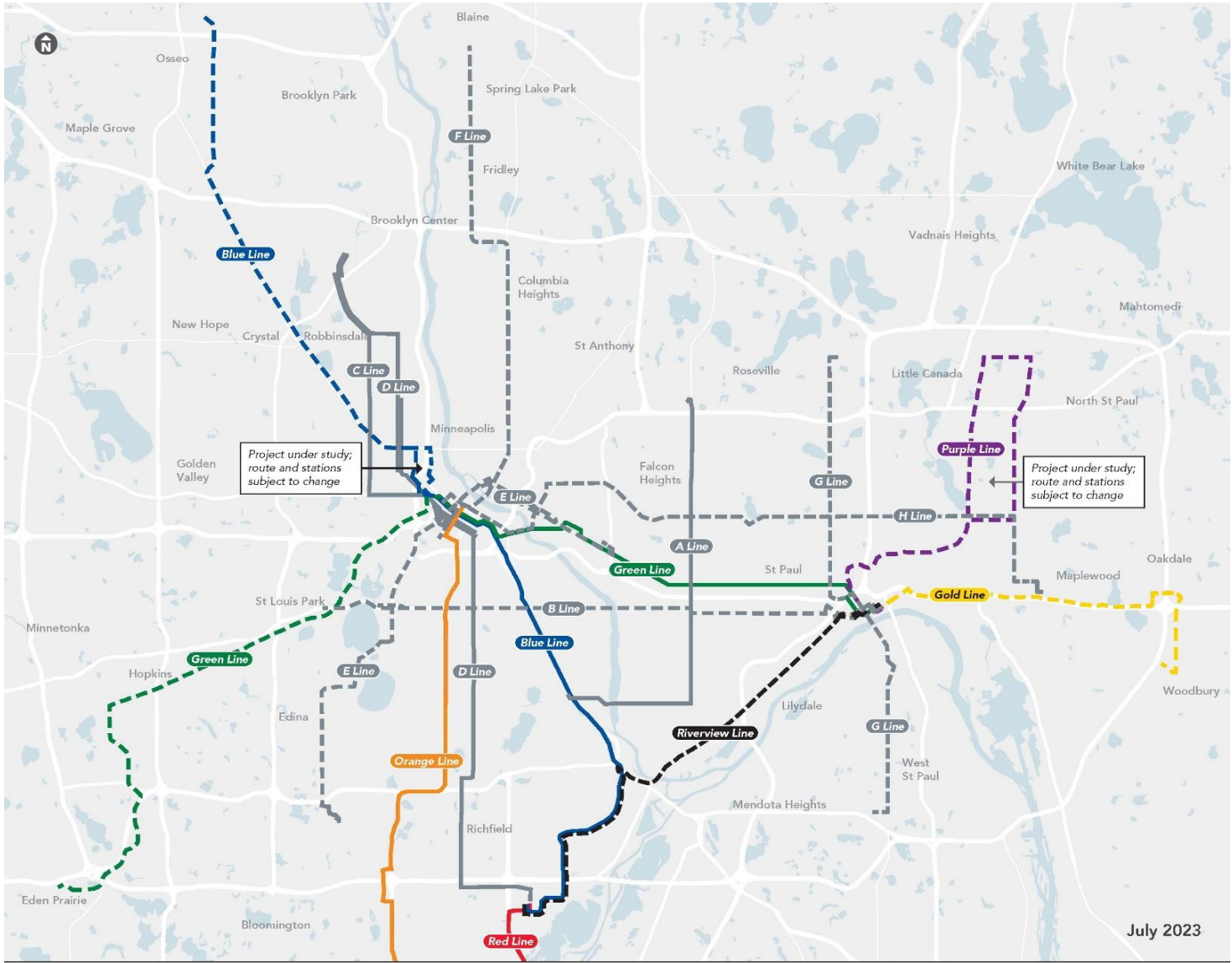


Legislative Direction

- **Guideways and Busways; Construction and Operations**
(MN Statute 473.4051)
- **Capital Maintenance**
(MN Statute 473.4051 subd 2a)
- **Light Rail Transit Municipal Consent**
(MN Statute 473.3994)
- **Corridor Management Committee**
(MN Statute 473.3994 subd 10)

Building the regional transit network

METRO line	Opened/Opening
Blue Line	2004
Red Line	2013
Green Line	2014
A Line	2016
C Line	2019
Orange	2021
D Line	2022
B Line	2025
E Line	2025
Gold Line	2025
F Line	2026
G Line	2027
H Line	2028
Green Line Extension	2027
Blue Line Extension	2030



METRO Transitways



Investments in Transitways

- **Completed Transitways**
 - Blue, Green, Red, Orange, A, C, D (+ NorthStar)
- **Transitways Under Construction**
 - Green Line Extension, Gold, B
- **Future Transitways**
 - Blue Line Extension, Purple, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, Riverview

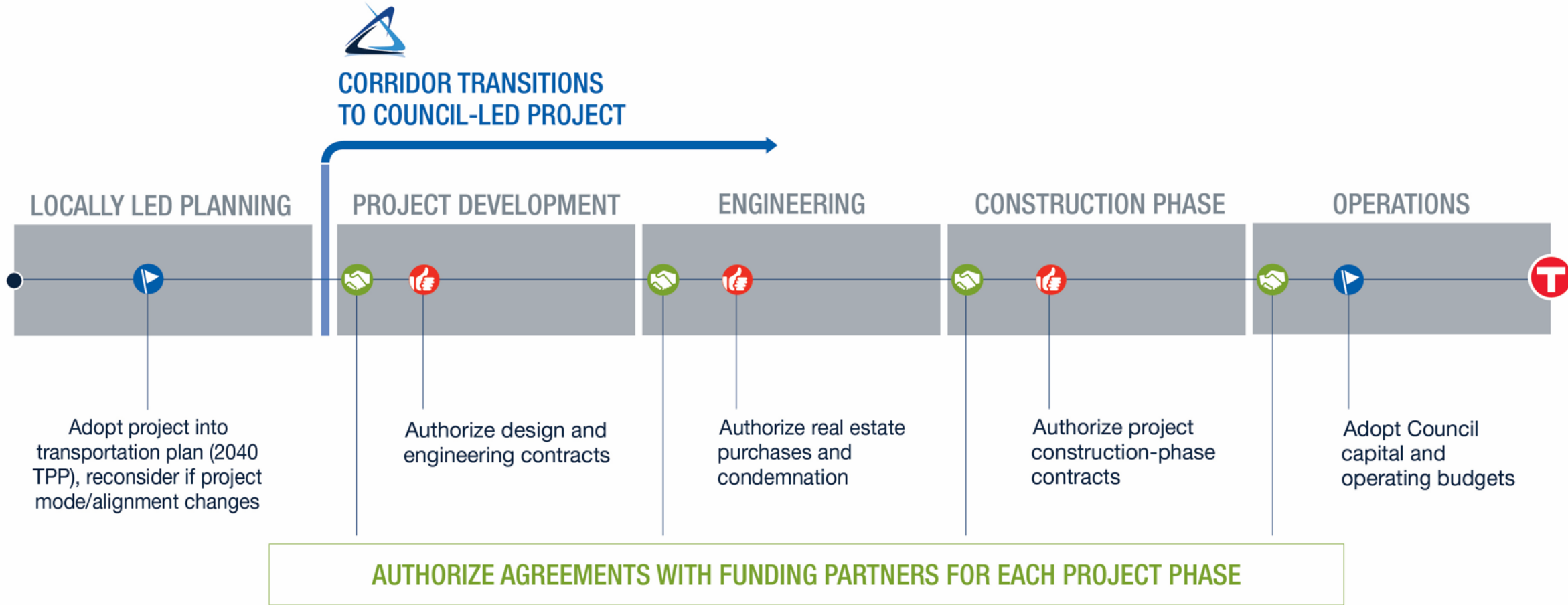
METRO Projects - Roles



Roles Depend on Mode

- **LRT/Dedicated BRT**
 - County leads planning and provides local share of development
 - METRO Projects leads project development, engineering, and construction
- **Highway BRT**
 - County leads planning and provides local share of development
 - METRO Projects leads project development, engineering
 - MnDOT and Metro Transit lead construction
- **Arterial BRT**
 - METRO Projects leads planning, engineering
 - City, County, MnDOT and/or Metro Transit lead construction depending on project

METRO Projects Development Process



Funding by Phase

100% County	100% County	50+% County Up to 50% Federal	50+% County Up to 50% Federal	100% Metro Transit
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Local involvement in METRO Projects



Advisory and Approval

- **Advisory Committee**
- **Corridor Management Committee**
 - LRT: 473.3994 Subd 10
 - BRT : Not required but utilized as standard of practice
- Advise and approve alignment, station locations, scope
- Approvals
- **Municipal Consent**
 - LRT: 473.2994
 - BRT: Not required but practice is to seek approval at municipal level of locally preferred alternative and pre-liminary plans

Public Engagement in METRO Projects



Functions and structure

On-going

- All Phases of the Project
- Focus of engagement changes based on the questions or needs of the project phase
- Issue tracking & resolution
- Considers stakeholder needs & relationship building

Advisory

- Business and Community Advisory Committees
- Boards and Organizations

Required

- Public Hearings
- Public Comment

Green Line Extension

2,350 events since 2012
54,000 participants engaged

Blue Line Extension

720 events since 2020
27,000 participants engaged

Metropolitan Transportation Services



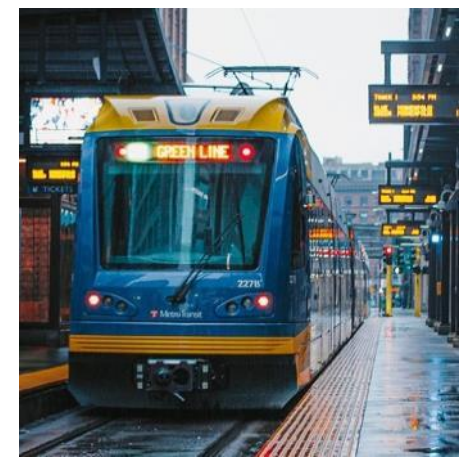
Transportation

Planning

- Designated as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under 23 USC §134
 - "3C" Process
 - Long-range transportation plan
 - Transportation Improvement Program
 - Unified Planning Work Program
- Designate short-term federal funds programming in coordination with the Transportation Advisory Board (Regional Solicitation)

Transit Services

- Contract and coordinate metropolitan transit operations
 - Contracted fixed-route bus
 - Metro Mobility
 - Transit Link
 - Vanpool program
- Provide financial assistance to replacement service providers



Metropolitan Transportation Services



Legislative Direction- Transit Services

- **Contracted Transit Services**
(MN Statute 473.375)
- **Special Transportation Service (Metro Mobility)**
(MN Statute 473.386)
- **Replacement Service Provider Assistance**
(MN Statute 473.388)
- **Capital Improvement Plan**
(MN Statute 473.39)
- **Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee**
(MN Statute 473.375)

Metropolitan Transportation Services

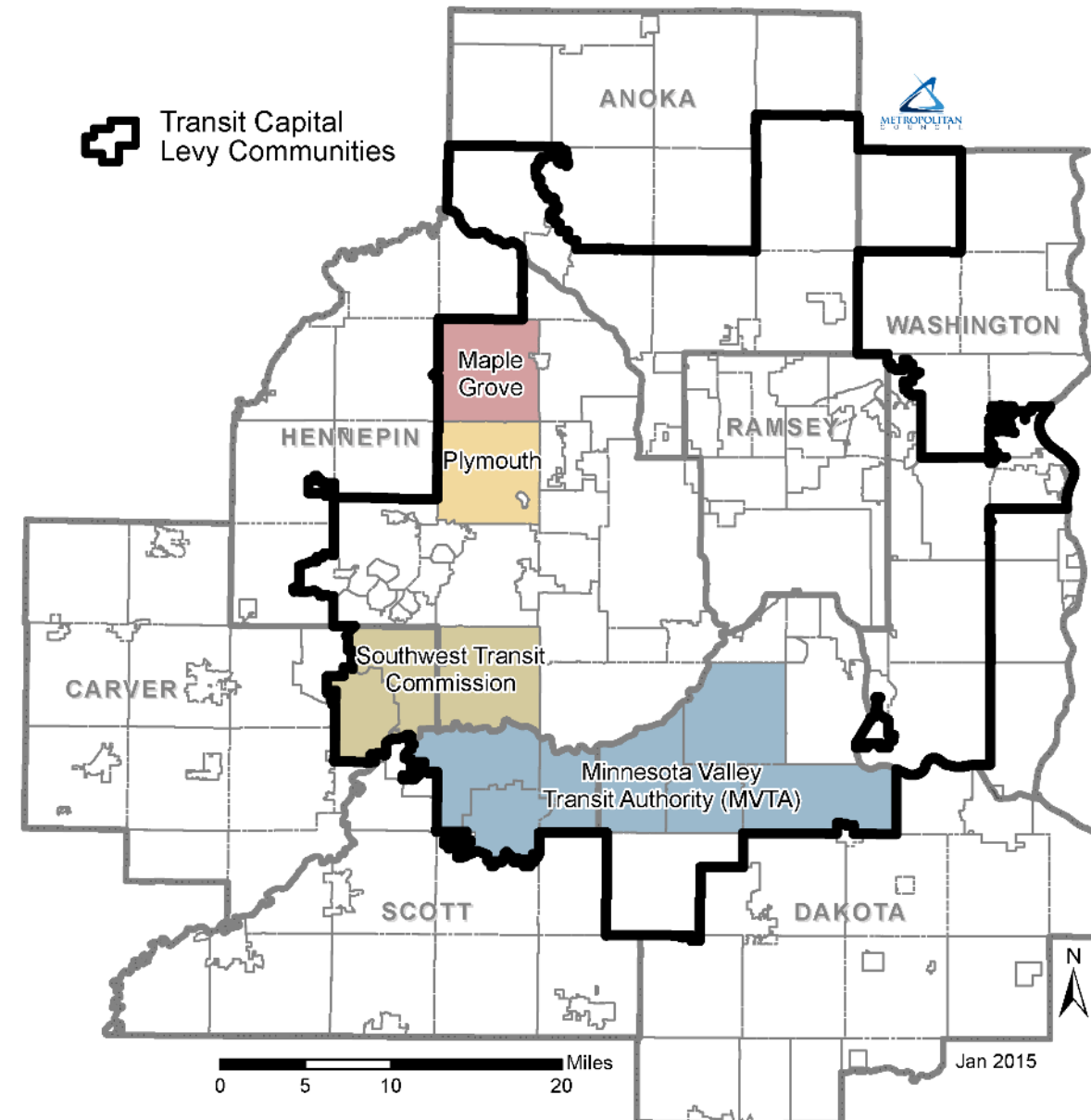
Contracted transit operations

- **Fixed route** – backbone of public transit
- **Metro Mobility**
 - A shared ride, public transportation service for certified riders who are unable to use regular fixed-route buses due to a disability or health condition.
 - Federal and State: Service guaranteed as a civil right under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); additional state requirements in 473.386
- **Transit Link** – Shared-ride public transport where regular route transit is infrequent or unavailable
- **Metro Transit micro** – On-demand dial-a-ride service, 2022-2024 pilot project
- **Metro Vanpool** – Vanpools have five to 15 people sharing the ride to and from work an average of three or more days a week.
- **Regional Services** – includes fleet, technology, grants management, regional policy and provider performance reporting.



Replacement Service Providers

- 473,388 Replacement Service Providers
 - Minnesota Valley Transit Authority
 - SouthWest Transit
 - Maple Grove Transit
 - Plymouth Metrolink
 - University of Minnesota
- Met Council coordinates regional transit policy (473.371), fare system (473.408)
- Met Council funds, purchases, owns, and replaces over 300 vehicles and fare equipment used by replacement service providers
- Met Council passes through MVST funding under statutory and regional policy
- Met Council provides grants for transit providers including as federal match



Metropolitan Planning Organization



TRANSPORTATION POLICY PLAN

2018 UPDATE WITH 2019 AMENDMENTS



2040



Transportation provides connections to opportunity

Transportation planning

Functions

- Highway Planning
- Transit Planning
- Airport Planning
- Freight Planning
- Travel Forecasting
- Corridor Studies
- Review transportation elements of local comprehensive plans



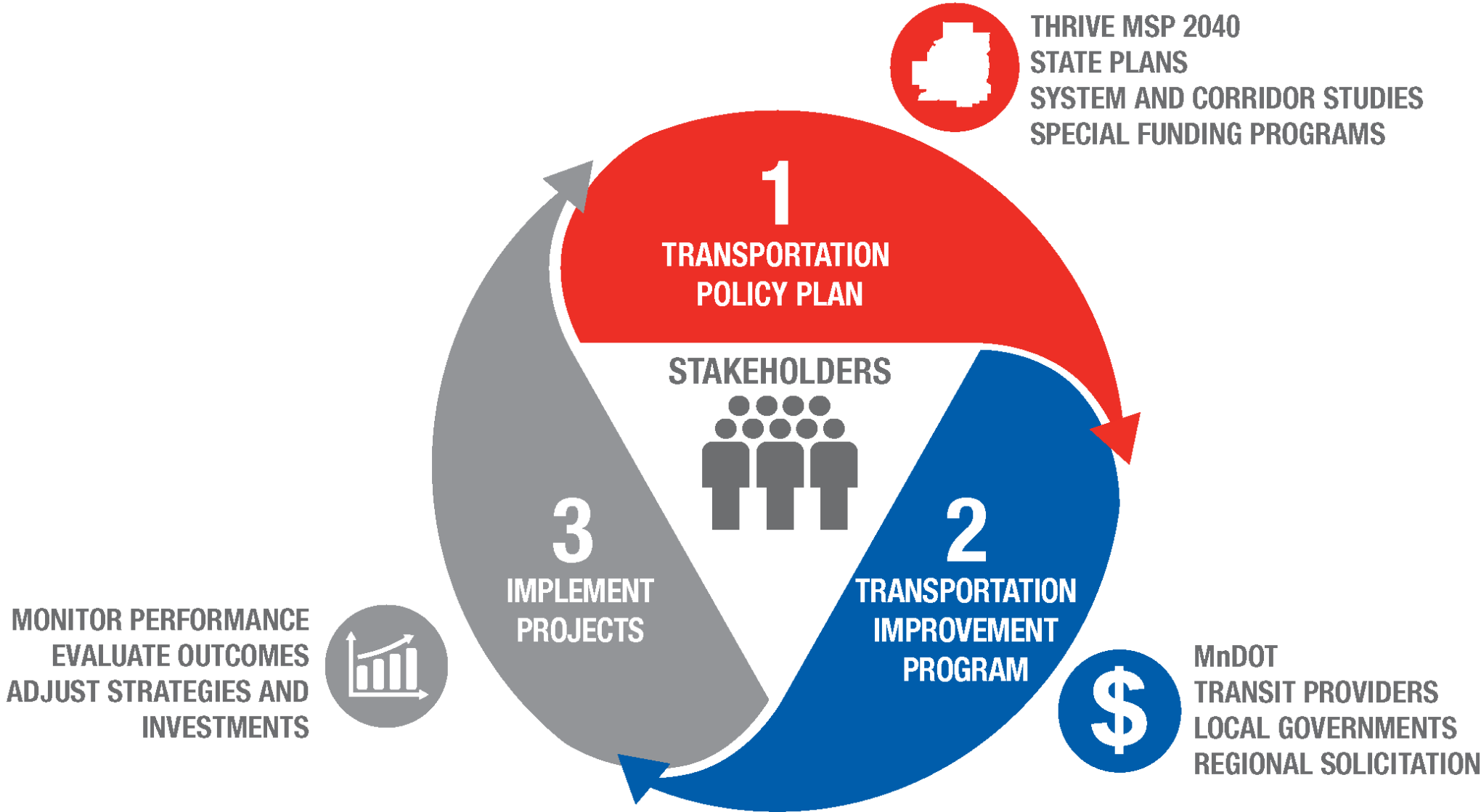
Metropolitan Planning Organization



Legislative Direction – Transportation Planning

- **Designated Agency for Transportation Planning**
(MN Statute 473.146)
- **Evaluate Transportation System Performance**
(MN Statute 473.1466)
- **Administer ROW Acquisition Loan Program**
(MN Statute 473.167)
- **Highway Controlled Access Approval**
(MN Statute 473.166)
- **Review Comprehensive Plans and Matters of Metropolitan Significance**
(MN Statute 473.175, 473.173)

Metropolitan Planning Organization



Transportation Advisory Board



34-member board

- Created through state statute to advise Council's completion of MPO responsibilities
- 18 elected officials
 - 10 elected officials appointed by Metro Cities
 - 7 county board members
 - 1 Suburban Transit Association
- 4 agency members
 - Met Council, MnDOT, MPCA, MAC,
- 8 citizen members
- 4 transportation mode members
 - 2 transit, 1 freight, 1 non-motorized

**State Statute 473.146
Subd. 4. Transportation planning**

Transportation Advisory Board



Functions

- Provides forum for state, regional and local officials, transportation providers and community members
- Reviews and comments on regional and statewide plans
- Solicits, evaluates and recommends local and regional projects to receive federal transportation funding
- Recommends the region's Transportation Improvement Program
 - Includes all regional projects that have federal transportation funds being spent over the next four years
- New: Selects uses for active transportation funding from regional transportation sales tax (5% of 83%; ~\$25M/year)

Transportation Planning Process

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING GUIDE

FOR THE TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA JANUARY 2020



Defining roles and responsibilities

- Transportation [Planning and Programming Guide](#)
 - Describes roles of transportation partners in planning and programming processes
 - Summarizes state and regional planning documents
 - Establishes processes for funding and programming
- [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between MnDOT and the Metropolitan Council; executed 2018
 - Documents *Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive* (3C) planning process roles and responsibilities
 - Defines and delineates the TAB's role in project selection and planning processes
 - Includes federal certification of MPO role and concurrence of transit funding recipient designation



Lesley Kandaras

General Manager, Metro Transit

Lesley.Kandaras@metrotransit.org

Nick Thompson

Interim Executive Director, METRO Projects for
Metro Transit

nick.thompson@metrotransit.org

Charles Carlson

Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation
Services

Charles.Carlson@metc.state.mn.us

